

Claims

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5 A data carrier system comprising a first data carrier selectively couplable to a communications device and a second data carrier selectively couplable to the communications device in preference to the first data carrier, the first data carrier being arranged to be decoupled from the communications device when the second data carrier is coupled to the communications device; and during a predetermined period of time the communications device is arranged to be ensured of a supply of power and the second data carrier is arranged to be decoupled from the

10 communications device, thereby causing the first data carrier to be coupled to the communications device for the execution of a task requiring the first data carrier.

2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein during substantially at least the predetermined period of time the communications device is arranged to be ensured of

15 the supply of power by maintaining the supply of power to the communications device in response to a command to extinguish the supply of power to the communications device, thereby facilitating execution of the task requiring the first data carrier.

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3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications device is actuatable between a powered state and an unpowered state, the communications device being arranged to be actuated from the unpowered state to the powered state at a predetermined interval for substantially at least the predetermined period of time.

25 4. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising means for receiving the first data carrier, wherein the first data carrier is arranged to be substantially permanently in engagement with the means for receiving the first data carrier.

30 5. A cellular telephone comprising the system as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims.

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6. A vehicle comprising the system as claimed in any preceding claim.

7. A method of operating a data carrier system including a first data carrier selectively couplable to a communications device and a second data carrier selectively couplable to the communications device in preference to the first data carrier, the first data carrier being arranged to be decoupled from the communications device when the second data carrier is coupled to the communications device, the method comprising the steps of:

10 during a predetermined period of time, ensuring a supply of power to the communications device, and

decoupling the second data carrier from the communications device, thereby causing the first data carrier to be coupled to the communications device for the execution of a task requiring the first data carrier.

15 8. A method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising, during substantially at least the predetermined period of time, ensuring the supply of power by maintaining the supply of power to the communications device in response to a command to extinguish the supply of power to the communications device, thereby facilitating execution of the task requiring the first data carrier.

20 Sub AI 9. A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the communications device is actuable between a powered state and an unpowered state, and further comprises actuating the communications device from the unpowered state to the powered state at a predetermined interval for substantially at least the predetermined period of time.

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10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9, further comprising providing means for receiving the first data carrier, and substantially permanently engaging the first data carrier with the means for receiving the first data carrier.

30 11. A method or system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first data carrier is a smartcard.

12. A method or system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second data carrier is a smartcard.
13. A method or system as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12, wherein the smartcard is a contactless smartcard.
14. A method or system as claimed in claims 11, 12 or 13 wherein the smartcard is a Subscriber Identity Module.
15. A method or system as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising providing location determining means.
16. A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the location determining means is a Global Positioning System receiver.
17. A method or system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the task is to update data stored in the first data carrier using the communications device.
18. A method or system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the data to be updated includes addresses to be used in conjunction with vehicle applications.
19. A method or system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the vehicle applications include one or both of security call and emergency call applications.

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